

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of the claims replaces any prior listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating melanoma comprising:
 - (a) administering to a mammal having metastatic melanoma a composition comprising a ~~nucleic acid~~ recombinant virus encoding a melanoma-associated tumor antigen ~~as the sole active pharmaceutical agent~~ along with at least one peptide comprising an epitope of the tumor antigen such that the mammal develops an T-cell immune response against the tumor antigen; and,
 - (b) subsequently administering at least 10 MU/m²/day interferon alpha 2b (IFN- α 2b) as the sole active pharmaceutical agent to the mammal for four weeks, wherein the IFN- α 2b is initially administered between 1.5 and 17 months after step (a) provided there is no evidence of circulating T cells reactive against the tumor antigen in the mammal as measured by flow cytometric assay or ELISPOT assay, wherein, following steps (a) and (b), the mammal has no evidence of metastatic disease.
- 2-3. Cancelled
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within a plasmid or a viral vector.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of poxvirus, adenovirus, retrovirus, herpesvirus, and adeno-associated virus.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of vaccinia, NYVAC, MVA, avipox, canarypox, ALVAC, ALVAC(2), fowlpox, and TROVAC.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of NYVAC, ALVAC, and ALVAC(2).
- 8-10. Cancelled

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MART-1/Melan A, gp75/TRP-1, tyrosinase, NY-ESO-1, melanoma proteoglycan, a MAGE antigen, a BAGE antigen, a DAGE antigen, a GAGE antigen, a fragment thereof, and a derivative thereof.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MAGE-1, MAGE-2, MAGE-3, MAGE-4, MAGE-6, MAGE-12, MAGE-51, GAGE-1, and GAGE-2.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is gp100.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a poxviral vector encoding the melanoma-associated tumor antigen.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein poxviral vector is an ALVAC vector.
- 16-22. Cancelled
22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 20 MU/m²/day at least five times per week for at least four weeks.
23. Cancelled
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2).
25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2) and the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
27. Cancelled

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising step c) in which IFN α 2b is administered at a dosage reduced by 33% of the amount of IFN α 2b administered in step b).
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of IFN α 2b is administered in step c) is at least 6 MU/m²/day.
30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the ALVAC vector is ALVAC(2).
31. Cancelled
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) is not repeated after step (b).
36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, between steps a) and b), administering to the mammal a composition comprising the peptides IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2) and YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3) as the sole active pharmaceutical agents.
37. Cancelled
38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising examining the mammal to identify radiologic evidence of melanoma—progression metastases following step (b).
39. Cancelled